



### ***What is the National Children's Study?***

- NCS is a national long term study of chronic disease among children in the United States, funded by a Congressional appropriation
- Approximately 100,000 U.S. children will be enrolled through their pregnant mothers and be followed until the age of 21.
- The purpose of the study is to examine the living environment's effect on the health and well being of children from pregnancy to adulthood. Environmental concerns include:
  - Natural & man-made environmental factors
  - Biological & chemical factors (eg. pesticides)
  - Physical surroundings (eg. the home)
  - Social factors (eg. poverty)
  - Behavioral influences and outcomes (eg. tobacco use)
  - Hereditary & family influences (eg. parental involvement)
  - Geographic locations (eg. rural or city communities)
- The anticipated outcome is to improve our understanding of the causes of major sources of disease and disability in children including:
  - Pregnancy complications including premature birth & birth defects
  - Developmental disorders like autism, learning disabilities, mental illness and behavioral problems
  - Injuries such as head trauma
  - Asthma
  - Obesity and Diabetes

### ***How will it be conducted?***

- Mothers and their babies will be recruited
- From 105 counties across the country
- The study will be administered by a network of study centers across the country
- The University of Arizona has been selected as the study center for three counties in Arizona
  - Apache
  - Pinal
  - Maricopa
- Specific communities from each county will be selected for participation
- Pregnant and non-pregnant women will be recruited from randomly selected households in these communities